

Now the garrison succeeded in maintaining order till a force of 800 men, which had been telegraphed for, arrived from Erivan on May 14. These troops were still there at the time of my visit. The Armenians were momentarily expecting some new outbreak; but the Tatars had played such thorough havoc in their shops that they were left alone for a time.

On May 13 several similar riots took place in the villages round Nakichevan, and on the 14th the Vice-Governor, who must have lost his head in the general confusion, despatched Enckel's adjutant to maintain order with twenty-two gendarmes and frontier guards. The adjutant returned immediately with the information that he was quite unable to force the hollow ways and thickets occupied by the Tatars, where his men were exposed to their fire; for the Tatars believed that the object of the Russian force was to help the Armenians.

Then Enckel obtained permission to return on the same day at three o'clock with the twenty-two mounted men; and after three collisions with the Tatars, many of whom were killed, and after he had received a further reinforcement of five soldiers, he fought his way through, and rescued several villages lying twenty to twenty-seven miles from the district town. Others, however, were pillaged and sacked in the most frightful manner. Thus many Armenians were massacred in the village Jagri, while the village Ulya-norashén, in the neighbouring department, Sharur, was burned to the ground by Tatars, who poured kerosene over the houses and shops and killed the owners.

When I visited this country it was still in a ferment, and it was not safe to go anywhere. The Armenians were incensed against the Tatars, and had, three weeks before, killed sixty men, women, and children in the Tatar village Gors, which was also plundered of all its cattle. This deed reacted on Nakichevan and other parts, where the Tatars thirsted for vengeance. An occasion presented itself three days after the attack on Gors, when Tatars fell upon an Armenian provision train, which travelled with an escort of six Russian soldiers armed with the new rifle. The Tatars summoned the soldiers to surrender their rifles,